



State of Maryland Executive Department

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Rosemary King Johnston
Executive Director

To: Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs)

From: Rosemary King Johnston, Executive Director

Date: June 3, 2011

Re: Changes to LCCs Effective 7/1/11

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During the 2011 legislative session, in accordance with the Maryland Child and Family Services Interagency Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan), the Children's Cabinet proposed changes to the legislation governing the State Coordinating Council (SCC) and the Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs). House Bill 840 was recently signed into law by Governor O'Malley and its provisions will go into effect on July 1, 2011.

These changes are the culmination of an intensive, collaborative effort by the Children's Cabinet in partnership with families, communities, and providers to improve the child-family serving delivery system to better anticipate and respond to the needs of children, youth, and their families. The new legislation supports the implementation of Maryland's shift to a service delivery process that is more family driven, facilitates the provision of community-based services for children with intensive needs by allowing families to self-refer for services without a lead agency, and provides for child-and-family teams selected by the families to develop plans of care for community-based services rather than the currently-required local interagency bodies that often lack first-hand familiarity with the families' needs.

These changes to the legislation aid in aligning Maryland's service delivery system with the system of care values articulated in the Strategic Plan and demonstrated in current practices by:

1. Shifting care plan development to a team planning model that is driven by the child and family vision, strengths, and needs and that is aligned with the practice model of the lead agency;
2. Repurposing the LCC as the Local Care Team (LCT) to provide local/regional problem-solving functions; promote accountability and outcomes; and serve a systems management and governance function at the local/regional level.

The LCT will:

1. Include representatives of the local/regional child- and family-serving agencies, as well as representatives of family members and youth.
2. Support the work of the SCC.

3. Support families in accessing services and supports when there is no identified lead agency or a family does not meet eligibility for a particular service.

Effective July 1, 2011, in accordance with the new statute, the LCT will:

1. Be a forum for:
 - a. Families of children with intensive needs to receive assistance with the identification of individual needs and potential resources to meet identified needs;
 - b. Interagency discussion and problem solving for individual child, family, and systemic needs;
2. Refer children and families to:
 - a. Care Management Entities (CMEs) when appropriate; and
 - b. Available local and community resources;
3. Provide training and technical assistance to local agency and community partners;
4. Identify and share resource development needs and communicate with the CME, local Core Service Agency, provider networks, Local Management Boards, and LCTs in surrounding jurisdictions; and
5. Discuss a request for a voluntary placement agreement for a child with a developmental disability or a mental illness under § 5-525 of the Family Law Article.

Transition responsibilities for the LCTs include:

- Completion of all required annual reviews by **September 30, 2011**.
- Updating by **October 1, 2011** all SCYFIS data entry for case activity that occurred prior to July 1, 2011, including closing cases in SYFIC as applicable.

Effective July 1, 2011, in accordance with the new statute, the LCTs will ***not*** be required to perform the following functions:

- Accept placement referrals from lead agencies;
- Review recommendations for the residential placement of children;
- Submit recommended plans of care to the SCC; or
- Assist the agency primarily responsible for a child's care in implementing and monitoring the residential placement of a child.

In order to effectuate this transition, the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) is in the process of revising forms and procedures.

Technical assistance sessions will be offered at the upcoming Systems of Care Training Institutes (SOCTI) scheduled for June 14th and June 15th. Additional technical assistance sessions will be scheduled and GOC staff will be available for local sessions upon request. Scheduling information will be distributed as soon as it is available.

We understand the inherent challenges and appreciate your diligence in adjusting to the procedural changes that have been necessary over the past year. Your efforts have truly demonstrated a spirit of collaboration and collegiality. The SCC members and GOC are ready to assist you in navigating these new processes. Please contact Patricia Arriaza at (410) 767-3526 if you have questions or concerns.